news release

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APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCE COMES TO LOYOLA

The first experiment in cross-campus course scheduling at Concordia University is now well under way in the Communication Arts Department at Loyola

The main focus of the course is group behaviour, covering concepts of group and interpersonal interaction, leadership and group development. According to Essie Altman, of the Sir George Applied Social Science Department, many of the students had mentioned that they had worked within the group framework in the past and had found that learning about group behaviour would be helpful. So, through the setting-up of three task-groups within the class, the students are given the opportunity to practice the skills of group interaction, development, and direction with the objective of each group producing a collective project and evaluating it themselves.

Late last year, a group of Comm Arts students who had decided they would like the opporunity to enroll in a course on interpersonal communications approached officials of the Communication Arts Department. Through various negotiations and discussions and the subsequent merger of Loyola and Sir George, it was decided to provide the Sir George course, APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCE 351 "Understanding Group Behaviour" on the Loyola Campus for the Comm Arts students. Precedents had been set with interdepartmental arrangements involving Communication Arts and departments such as Sociology and Physics on the Loyola Campus. As such, the course arrangement is both an educative experience for the students as well as an experiment for the university as a whole.

The first section of "Understanding Group Behaviour" was offered during the first term in the Canadian Room in Hingston Hall, Monday mornings between 9 a.m. and noon. The second section will be offered during the spring term beginning January 6. The course is taught jointly by Marilyn Taylor of Loyola Student Services, and Essie Altman of the Sir George Applied Social Science Department.

by Brian Gorman
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